



Borough of Clitheroe.



ANNUAL

REPORT

OF

WM. E. BARKER

M.B. Ch.B. (VICT.) & L.S.A. (LOND).

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1938



CLITHEROE.

"Advertiser & Times," Printers,

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

HEALTH COMMITTEE

OF THE

BOROUGH OF CLITHEROE

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my (Thirty-seventh) Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, for the year 1938, and this is set out in accordance with instructions issued to Medical Officers by the Ministry of Health.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM E. BARKER



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29116065>

BOROUGH OF CLITHEROE

.....

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1938

.....

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. E. BARKER, M.B., CH.B., (Vict.) L.S.A., (London),
Part-time Officer.

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

JAMES BOLTON, Certificates of Royal Sanitary Institute.

SCHOOL NURSE AND HEALTH VISITOR :

ELSA W. BATES, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Certificate.

—————

1—GENERAL STATISTICS, &c.

These remain substantially as in former Reports.

The town's principal Industry, the Cotton Trade, remains in a depressed condition with the result that many persons are still wholly or partially unemployed.

No trades considered especially harmful to health are carried on in the town.

The population at the Census, 1931, was 12,008. For the purposes of this Report the population is estimated as 11,260, and the Birth and Death rates are based on this figure.

The number of inhabited Houses at the Census, 1931, was 3,215, the number of families or separate occupiers being 3,250.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1938 was 3,660.

The Rateable Value of the Urban District (including Government Property) is £64,612, the sum represented by a Penny Rate being about £254.

2—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

118 live Births were registered during the year (an increase of five upon 1937), and of this number 64 were males and 54 females.

Five of the above Births were illegitimate, two male and three female. Three such births were registered during the previous year.

This gives a Birth Rate of 10.4 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, which is 0.4 above the figure for 1937, and 0.9 below the average for the previous five years, which was 11.3.

Four Stillbirths (two males and two females) were registered during 1938, giving a rate of 32 per 1,000 total (live and still) births. Careful enquiry is made by the Nurse into the history of these cases.

There were no Maternal Deaths during the year from Puerperal Sepsis, and only one from other Puerperal causes. This gave a Rate of 8.19 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, a decrease of 16.81 on the figure for 1937, which was 25.0.

The number of Deaths registered during the year actually belonging to the Borough, was 135, a decrease of 14 upon the figure for 1937, and of this number, 63 were males and 72 females.

The adjusted Death Rate for 1938, is therefore, 11.9 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, a figure which is 1.2 below that for 1937. The average for the previous five years was 12.8 per 1,000.

The deaths registered included 40 from Organic Heart Disease, 20 from Cancer, two from Tuberculosis, four from Nephritis (acute and chronic), two from Pneumonia, five from Cerebral Haemorrhage, five from Diabetes, three from Bronchitis, one from Influenza, one from Scarlet Fever and one from Encephalitis Lethargica.

There were seven deaths during the year of children under one year of age, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 42 per 1,000 live births registered, a decrease of 19 per 1,000 upon the figures for 1937, and also a decrease of three per 1,000 on the mean of the previous five years, which was 45.

3—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

There was a marked decrease in the number of notifiable diseases during the year, only 48 such notifications being received, as against 96 in 1937, and 133 in 1936.

Scarlet Fever, with 25 cases ; and Pneumonia, with 10 cases ; were the principal contributors to the total, but Diphtheria notifications which numbered 22 in 1937, and 64 in 1936, fell to four only in the year under review.

This is very satisfactory so far as it goes, but these diseases are periodic in their outbreaks, and as a new generation of children reach an age when they are particularly susceptible to infection another epidemic comes along.

I feel, therefore, that I must again repeat the recommendation I have made in my two last Reports, viz., that in view of the proved efficacy of Immunisation treatment against Diphtheria the Council would be well advised to provide such treatment free of cost to parents so that they might take advantage of it for their children.

Outbreaks of Diphtheria are not only dangerous to life, but costly, and immunisation would be a good investment, even from a monetary point of view.

Another satisfactory feature regarding Notifiable Diseases during 1938 in that the reports of Tubercular Diseases (all forms) have fallen to three only, as against nine in 1937, and nine in 1936, and these latter figures themselves showed a considerable decrease on the average for several previous years.

There were no reports during 1938 of Puerperal Fever or Puerperal Pyrexia, another very satisfactory feature.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT													
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over
Small-pox .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever.....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Malaria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Sepsis .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Puerperal Causes.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	7	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	1	...

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'ry		Pulmonary		Non-Pulm'ry	
	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males	Males	Fe- males
Under 1 year
1 and under 5
5 " " 10
10 " " 15
15 " " 20	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....
20 " " 25
25 " " 35	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
35 " " 45
45 " " 55	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
55 " " 65	1	.....	.....
65 and upwards
TOTALS	3	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....

Oph- thalmia- Neon- atorum	CASES			Vision unim- paired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
	Noti- fied	TREATED					
		At Home	In Hospital				
	2	2	.....	2	.....	..	..

SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, &c.

These remain as in my last Report, and are as follows.

The Council employ a full-time nurse whose duties are divided between School Inspection and Maternity and Child Welfare work, the Welfare Centre being held on each alternate Tuesday.

The nurse has a "clerical assistant" who assists at the various Clinics, and acts as Dental Attendant, etc.

The Ante-Natal Clinic is held on the third Wednesday in each month, with Dr. Newton, of St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester, in charge, and there is an arrangement whereby this Hospital has undertaken to admit any cases either pre-natal or post-natal, recommended by Dr. Newton, the Council paying a fixed fee per case.

Arrangements exist for the taking of X-Ray photographs when desirable.

In addition, Dr. Briggs, of Blackburn, is available for consultation when desired in difficult midwifery cases, and in cases of Puerperal Fever, or Pyrexia, and when necessary these cases have been removed to the Blackburn Infirmary.

This is the nearest Hospital for all medical and surgical cases and very considerable use is made of it. The Council have a Motor Ambulance for the removal of patients to Blackburn, Manchester, etc.

We have an arrangement with Blackburn for the admission of cases of Smallpox to their Isolation Hospital, the Council paying an annual retaining fee; and when beds are available the Blackburn and Burnley Authorities are always willing to admit other infectious diseases to their Hospitals (at a weekly charge) when efficient isolation at home is impossible, or where surgical interference is necessary, as in Mastoid cases. In such cases Ambulances belonging to these Authorities are available for the removal of the patients.

Orthopaedic treatment for children of all ages is available under the Lancashire County Scheme.

There is a local Nursing Association employing three certified midwives, who also undertake district nursing, and the Council have an undertaking from the Association to provide nurses when necessary for the home treatment of cases of Measles, Scarlet Fever, etc.

The Council supply milk, in accordance with a wages scale, which has been approved by the Ministry, to children and expectant and nursing mothers. Cod Liver Oil is also supplied in suitable cases.

Arrangements are in force whereby the School Clinics conducted by Dr. Wishart, of Blackburn, for Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat cases are available for children, under school age, attending the Welfare Centre. Seven such children attended during 1938.

The County Council is the Authority here for the supervision of Tuberculosis, and a copy of the notifications received each week is sent to the County Medical Officer.

There is no Institutional provision for un-married mothers, illegitimate children, or homeless children.

The nearest Venereal Clinic is at Blackburn.

5—LABORATORY WORK

This shows no change.

The arrangement continues in force with the Public Health Laboratory in Manchester for the examination of Pathological Specimens.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is available at the Health Office and at the local Police Station, and this is provided free of charge to persons not in a position to pay for it.

6—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION

Water Supply

This is from neighbouring upland sources, is always adequate and of exceptional softness and purity, and well suited for all drinking and domestic purposes.

Samples taken at various points have been forwarded monthly to the Public Analyst and the reports received, both chemical and bacteriological have been satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewage

The surface drainage is received into the Mearley Brook which runs through the town.

The Sewerage Works, where extensive improvements were carried out some time ago, are considered efficient and up-to-date.

House Refuse, &c.

The following is a summary of the work done in the removal of House Refuse, Nightsoil, &c., during the year :—

1—House and Shop Refuse removed and taken to destructor	1878 loads
2—Offal from Public Abattoirs ..	122 loads
3—Fish and Vegetable Offal from Trade Premises and Market....	303 loads
4—Nightsoil from Pail closets.....	53 loads
Total Loads	<hr/> 2356

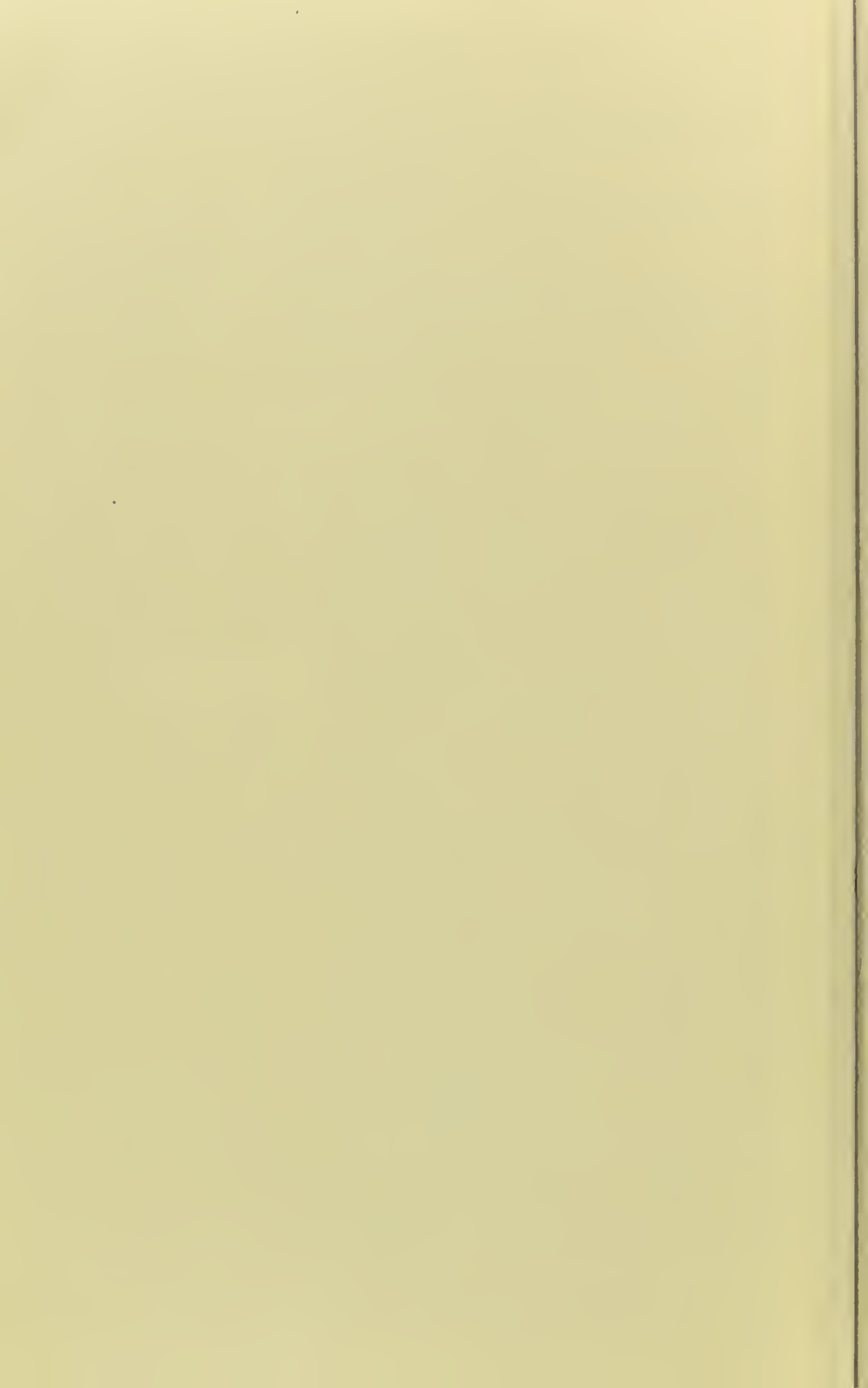
The total weight of House and Shop Refuse (1,878 loads) removed amounted to 3,212 tons 5 cwts. 3 qrs.

CAUSES OF AND AGE

CAUSES OF DEATH	Nett Deaths at whether occur		
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2
All Causes—Certified . . Uncertified	135	7	1
Scarlet Fever	1	.....	.....
Measles .....	.....	.....	.....
Whooping Cough .....	.....	.....	.....
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fever .....	.....	.....	.....
Diphtheria .....	.....	.....	.....
Influenza	1	.....	.....
Encephalitis Lethargica. ..	1	.....	.....
Diabetes	5	.....	.....
Cerebral Haemorrhage, &c. .	5	.....	.....
Diarrhoea &c. (under 2 years) ..	.....	.....	.....
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, Premature Birth	7	7	.....
Peptic Ulcer .....	.....	.....	.....
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	.....	.....
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....	.....	.....	.....
Acute and Chronic Nephritis.	4	.....	.....
Cancer, Malignant Disease.....	20	.....	.....
Heart Disease	40	.....	.....
Bronchitis	3	.....	.....
Pneumonia (all forms).....	2	.....	1
Appendicitis .....	.....	.....	.....
Deaths from Violence.....	4	.....	.....
Suicide	5	.....	.....
Puerperal Sepsis .....	.....	.....	.....
Other Puerperal Causes	1	.....	.....
Senility	1	.....	.....
Other Defined Diseases.....	32	.....	.....
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	1	.....	.....
TOTALS	135	7	1

AT DEATH DURING 1938

[illegible]



This is an increase of 295 tons on the figures for the previous year.

Closet Accommodation

The Sanitary accommodation of the Borough now consists of 2,289 Freshwater Closets, 1,397 Slopwater Closets, and 29 Pail Closets. Only 11 of these pail closets are within reach of the existing sewerage system.

There are six Public Conveniences in the town with a total of 28 Freshwater Closets providing accommodation for each sex, together with 10 Public Urinals.

The Council has had under consideration the type of Sanitary Accommodation existing in the Borough and have noted that a large proportion is of the undesirable and unsatisfactory Slopwater type, while there are still a number of pail closets remaining.

It is anticipated that, as suggested in my last report, action will be taken in the near future, and advantage will be taken of recent legislation with respect to financial assistance to owners undertaking conversions of these unsatisfactory closets.

Slaughterhouses

In addition to the four Slaughterhouses at the Public Abattoirs, there are in the Borough three Private Slaughterhouses for the slaughtering of animals intended for human consumption. All these are under the supervision and control of the Health Department.

Meat and Food Inspection

These Public Abattoirs and Slaughterhouses have been inspected frequently during the year and the quality of the meat met with was of a high standard generally.

Lodging-Houses

There is one Common Lodging-House in the Borough, with accommodation for 256 persons, including 243 single beds for males, ten beds in married quarters, and three single beds for females. There are also furnished apartments for 24 persons.

The house is visited frequently by the Sanitary Inspector, and by the Police, under whose supervision the premises are registered. There have been no contraventions of the Bye-laws.

Bakehouses

These remain as in previous years. The premises have been inspected frequently and were found to be in a fairly satisfactory state.

In two cases where limewashing was overdue, verbal notice was given and the work carried out.

Factories and Workshops

There are now 85 Power Factories and 26 Non-Power Factories together with 32 workplaces in the Borough, making a total of 143 premises which come within the scope of the Factories Act, 1937.

During the year, six factories were inspected in accordance with Section 34 relating to the means of escape in case of fire. In one or two instances required works were promptly carried out and the necessary certificates were granted in all cases.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops

There are still 29 Registered Cowsheds in the Borough, with 11 Dairymen or Milk Purveyors on the Register.

Three Licences are in existence for the sale of Accredited Milk, and two for Pasteurised Milk.

During the year, at one Dairy Farm considerable improvements have been carried out. The light to the Cowshed was considerably augmented, the floor relaid and made good, and in addition, a new Dairy of modern type was built. It is expected that further improvements will be carried out in the near future.

In three other Dairy Farms, the floors of the Cowsheds have been remodelled.

A large quantity of milk produced in Clitheroe is dispatched daily to large industrial towns and is there subject to constant supervision and testing. During the year, however, no complaints have been received with respect thereto.

Milk and Cream Regulations

No samples were taken with a view to ascertaining the presence of preservatives.

Sale of Food and Drugs

Under the Food and Drugs Acts, 25 samples of butter, cheese, self-raising flour, lard, margarine, and milk, were purchased by the Police during the year and forwarded to the Borough Analyst for report. All samples were found to be genuine.

Smoke Observations

During the year, three Smoke observations were made, and the results showed excessive emission of smoke. Notices were sent in two cases and verbal representations made to the owners to avoid further nuisance.

There is no time limit in force in the Borough.

Summary of Visits, &c.

The following is a summary of the Visits, &c., made during the year by the Public Health Staff :—

House-to-House Inspections	85
House-to-House Re-Inspections.....	376
Other House Inspections	80
Visits re Overcrowding.....	9
Factory Inspections	93
Visits to Infected Houses	74
Slaughterhouse Inspections.....	103
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections.....	85
Visits to Milkshops	20
Visits re Complaints.....	216
Visits re Work in Progress	280
Miscellaneous Visits by Inspector.....	331
Smoke Observations.....	3
Houses Disinfected	28
Houses Disinfested.....	.....
Preliminary Notices Served.....	278
Statutory Notices Served	12

HEALTH VISITOR—

Primary Visits to Infants under 1 year.....	103
Secondary Visits to Infants under 1 year.....	446
Visits to Children 1 to 5 years	1136
Visits to Expectant Mothers.....	34
Visits re Stillbirths	5
Visits re Children and Young Persons Act.....	9
Miscellaneous Visits.....	116

The following is a list of the works carried out in the abatement of Nuisances :—

Choked Drains opened and cleansed	38
Defective Drains Repaired.	24
Defective Slopwater Closets repaired	35
Defective Sinks and Waste Pipes repaired or replaced	25
Defective Eaves Gutters and Downspouts repaired	51
Yard surfaces repaired	9
Defective Windows repaired	319
Defective Floors repaired	49
Dilapidated House Walls and Ceilings repaired	60
Exterior Walls roughcasted or pointed to remedy dampness	4
Defective Roofs repaired	39
Defective Chimney Stacks made good	9
Defective Fire-ranges repaired or replaced	11
Premises requiring Limewashing	4
Outhouse buildings repaired	3

7—HOUSING

Statistics

Number of houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	59
(b) As part of Municipal Housing Scheme	6

1—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	130
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	261

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	40
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	94
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	16
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	39

2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....	42
--	----

3—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :

A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	13
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners.....	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices : | |
| (a) By Owners..... | Nil. |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil. |

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... | Nil. |

D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... | Nil. |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... | Nil. |

4—HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	15
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	15
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	95
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil.
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	Nil.
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases.	Nil.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Considerable delay was experienced with respect to the erection of an additional 46 houses contemplated at the end of 1936. No progress was made during 1937 and it was not until the latter part of 1938 that building operations were commenced. At the end of 1938, only six of these houses were completed. The Scheme provides for the erection of four houses of a type to accommodate large and overcrowded families, 34 houses of the smaller type, and eight Bungalows.

A number of these houses were earmarked for occupation by families from condemned and overcrowded property.

The evacuation of families from such properties was greatly impeded during the year owing to the lack of alternative accommodation, but it was found possible to rehouse a total of 12 persons from the unfit houses 42, Bawdlands, 28 and 30, Park Street, and 1, Craven Street.

Demolition Orders were issued against No. 23, Lowergate, No. 107, Whalley Road, and Nos. 1 and 3, Craven Street. At the end of the year, demolition had not been carried out, alternative accommodation not being available for the occupants.

With respect to Nos. 18, 20, 26, 28, 30 and 32, Park Street (back-to-back houses), Nos. 24, 34 and 36, Park Street, 38 and 40, Bawdlands, 7, 9 and 13, Back York Street, undertakings to carry out works, given by the owners, have been accepted by the Council and it is expected that much progress will be made early in 1939, when alternative accommodation will be available for the tenants of these houses.

It is expected that the house, No. 218, Whalley Road, recently purchased by the Council, will shortly be closed and the tenant rehoused on the new Municipal Estate.

Overcrowding

No further cases of Overcrowding were reported during the year, and it is expected that some of the 15 outstanding cases will be remedied early in the new year, as the erection of further houses proceeds.

Unhealthy Areas

There are no actual "slum" areas in the Borough, the unsuitable houses being scattered throughout the town.

Disinfestation of Premises

There have been no occasions when disinfestation was called for.

Bye-Laws

Modern Bye-laws relating to " New Streets and Buildings " came into force in June, 1927, and there have been no special difficulties in their enforcement.

There are no Bye-laws in force with respect to " Houses let in Lodgings," or relating to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., but it is highly desirable that further powers should be sought in respect thereto.

